

Date: Fri, 26 Feb 93 15:59:43 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #262
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Fri, 26 Feb 93 Volume 93 : Issue 262

Today's Topics:

 1 Watt = ? dBm ?
 FAQ-pointer article will be re-posted
 Great Repeater Antennas (2 msgs)
 Ground planes and vertical dipoles (2 msgs)
 HELP! SATELLITE TV DESCRAMBLER
How to find the answers to frequently-asked questions about Ham Radio
 mail-order -- good experiences
 Misdirected QSLs
 radar scrambler ?
 Soldering PL259's (2 msgs)

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Fri, 26 Feb 1993 20:57:45 GMT
From: pacbell.com!unet!pioneer!rmt@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: 1 Watt = ? dBm ?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <Feb24.185426.99665@yuma.ACNS.ColoState.EDU>
gw214790@LANCE.ColoState.Edu (Galen Watts) writes:
>In article <1993Feb24.172849.24453@alw.nih.gov> arm@helix.nih.gov (Andrew Mitz)
writes:
>>dBm is often used for a measure of RF output power of low power
>>devices. What is the conversion of dBm to watts?
>>Andrew Mitz | NIH Animal Center
>>Biomedical Engineer | Poolesville, MD

I thought it made it out in time to reach our major news neighbors.
Apparently it didn't. I'll re-post it.

Ian Klufft KD6EUI PP-ASEL
Internet: iklufft@uts.amdahl.com
Packet Radio: kd6eui@n0ary.#nocal.ca.usa.na
[disclaimer: any opinions expressed are mine only - not those of my employer]

Amdahl Corporation

Open Systems Development

Santa Clara, CA

Date: Fri, 26 Feb 1993 21:12:36 GMT
From: usc!rpi!rs6322.ecs.rpi.edu!maessm@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Great Repeater Antennas
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1mk9ucINNosb@topaz.bds.com>, ron@topaz.bds.com (Ron Natalie) writes:
|> If you have some of the older ARRL antenna books (or the real old FM
|> and Repeaters book) you'll find a plan for a UHF antenna that involves
|> cutting various lenghts (quarters of wavelengths) of COAX and swaping the
|> braid and the center conductor at the intersections to make a nice antenna.
|> I'm sure I've got the book at home. I could fax the page that shows the
|> lengths.

If you could post it to the newsgroup, it would be much appreciated. I have
known about such antennas for a while now, but never have I seen any dimensions,
etc. for the lengths of coax.

--

Mat Maessen N2NJZ | maessm@rpi.edu

----- +-----
The opinions expressed in this message definitely do NOT reflect the
views of RPI, Roland Schmitt, or BAPP

(c) 1993 Fake-sig Co., Inc.

Date: Fri, 26 Feb 1993 22:10:20 GMT
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!oakhill!news@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Great Repeater Antennas
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1mk9ucINNosb@topaz.bds.com> ron@topaz.bds.com (Ron Natalie)
writes:
> If you have some of the older ARRL antenna books (or the real old FM
> and Repeaters book) you'll find a plan for a UHF antenna that involves
> cutting various lenghts (quarters of wavelengths) of COAX and swaping
the

> braid and the center conductor at the intersections to make a nice
antenna.
> ...

There were plans for a similar antenna in 73 magazine a few months ago.
I'm not 100% sure, but I think it was in the August 92 issue.

Mark AA7TA

Date: 26 Feb 93 21:15:17 GMT
From: swrinde!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!spool.mu.edu!olivea!
gossip.pyramid.com!pyramid!infmtx!seashore!randall@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Ground planes and vertical dipoles
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

gary@ke4zv.uucp (Gary Coffman) writes:

```
>
>      | 1/4 wave monopole
>      |
>      |
>      |
>      | F
>      |-----|
>      | | | | |
>      | | | | | 1/4 wave sleeve
>      | | | | |
>      | | | | |
>      | | | | |
>      | | | | | coax
>      | | | | |
>      | | | | |
>      | | | | |
```

>The sleeve acts as 1/2 of the dipole, and also serves to decouple
>the coax from RF. No Earth ground is required. At VHF you can make
>quick portable antennas like this by simply rolling back a quarterwave
>section of braid from a piece of coax. The inner becomes the monopole
>and the rolled back braid becomes the sleeve. If you make a small loop
>in the end of the inner, you can tie a string there to hang the antenna.
>This design will also work at lower frequencies, but becomes rather long
>and requires a tall tree as a hanger.

How does this antenna compare to a J-pole?

--

=====

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Randall Rhea | Informix Software, Inc. |
| Project Manager, MIS Sales/Marketing Systems | uunet!pyramid!infmt!randall |

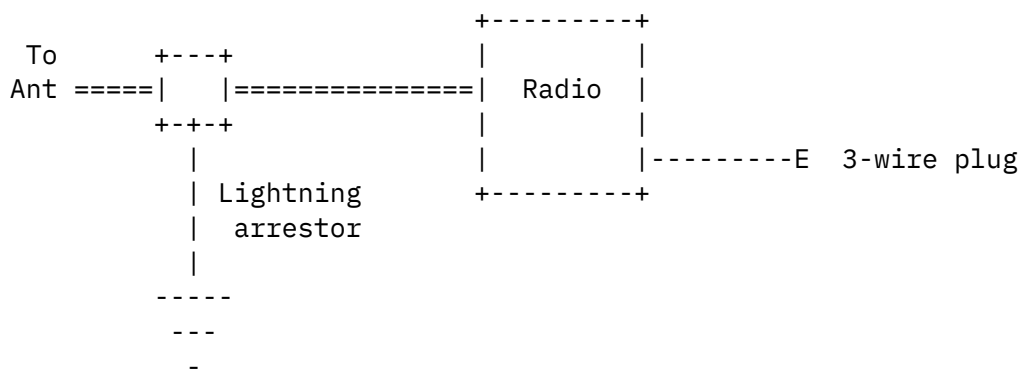
Date: Fri, 26 Feb 1993 23:23:12 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!icon.rose.hp.com!greg@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Ground planes and vertical dipoles
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Alan Bloom (alanb@hpnmdla.sr.hp.com) wrote:

:
: The moral of the story is: use a 3-wire plug on your ham equipment
: to safety-ground the chassis. Do not depend on a separate earth
: ground. The tower/coax should be grounded to earth ground at some
: point before the coax enters the house (for lightning protection).
:

If you have both an earth ground (at the lightning arrestor) and a 3-wire plug safety ground at the transceiver, couldn't you get quite a ground loop current going with a non-ground-potential safety ground? I expect that would at least cause your ground rod to dissolve with electrolytic action, not to mention the safety issue.

I assume your case example was a severe one, and I shouldn't be paranoid, but it is probably worth asking if my configuration is correct...



Note that the shield of the antenna coax is connected to the ground rod.

Thanks,

Greg KD6KGW

Date: 26 Feb 93 20:43:03 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!ukma!cs.widener.edu!dsinc!
netnews.upenn.edu!mipg.upenn.edu!yee@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: HELP! SATELLITE TV DESCRAMBLER
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>Technological infrastructure is expensive. No body can afford to
>give it away. IMHO.

I agree but this raises an interesting question.

Question: Was there an expense in setting up AM/FM/TV broadcast?
Answer: Yes.

Question: Why is AM/FM/TV broadcast free?
Answer: the costs are covered by advertising.

Question: Is there an expense in setting up cable/satellite broadcast?
Answer: Yes.

Question: Why isn't the cost of this infrastructure paid for by advertising?
Answer: ?

The times have certainly changed.

--
411 Blockley Hall | Conway Yee, N2JWQ
418 Service Drive | yee@ming.mipg.upenn.edu (preferred)
Philadelphia, PA 19104 | cy5@cunixa.cc.columbia.edu (forwarded to above)
(215) 662-6780 |

Date: 26 Feb 93 21:25:43 GMT
From: pacbell.com!amdahl!amdahl!uts.amdahl.com@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: How to find the answers to frequently-asked questions about Ham Radio
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Posted-By: auto-faq 2.4

How to find the Rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions list

This article will tell you how to find the answers to frequently-asked
Questions (FAQ) from rec.radio.amateur.misc. The FAQ articles are posted on
the 7th of each month. This article is posted on the 22nd of every month as
a reminder for where to find the FAQ.

The FAQ articles are intended to summarize some common questions on the rec.radio.amateur.misc newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list as well as to help beginners get started.

Besides the monthly posting, the FAQ is always available via anonymous FTP and from e-mail servers. This article contains instructions for obtaining a copy of the FAQ. It also contains the table of contents from the FAQ so that you know which questions are covered by it.

Please provide a copy of the FAQ to any new or soon-to-be Hams you know.

Regular FAQ postings can help save network bandwidth and maintain a good signal-to-noise ratio in the newsgroup. However, they can't do it alone - you, the reader, have to use them. If you are a new user, please print and review the FAQ articles and look at the instructions in the news.newusers newsgroup before posting any articles. If you are an experienced user, please help by refraining from answering frequently-asked questions on the newsgroup if they are already answered by the FAQ articles. Instead, send e-mail to the user who asked the question. (It will be helpful if you include the part of the FAQ that answers their question, but not the whole thing.)

--How to obtain a current copy of the FAQ-----

There are 3 ways to obtain a copy of the FAQ.

- 1) NetNews
- 2) Anonymous FTP
- 3) An Electronic Mail Server

Option #1: NetNews

If you are familiar enough with NetNews to look through previous articles on your system, Option #1 above may be the easiest for you. The FAQ is posted so that it should not expire from your site's news spool until the next one is posted. Unfortunately, some news administrators do not honor the expiration dates meant to preserve the FAQ.

Look in rec.radio.amateur.misc, rec.radio.info, rec.answers, or news.answers. If the FAQ has expired at your site, try Option #2 (and ask your news administrator to honor expiration dates for articles cross-posted to news.answers if he/she can.)

Option #2: Anonymous FTP

Anonymous FTP uses the File Transfer Protocol. It is only available to sites which are directly connected to the Internet. If you don't know how to use FTP and can't find a friend to help you, continue to Option #3. If your site is not connected to the Internet, you should also continue to Option #3.

The following sites have copies of the FAQ:

| site name & address | path to FAQ articles |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ftp.amdahl.com (129.212.11.1) | pub/radio/amateur/faq.[1-6].Z |
| ftp.cs.buffalo.edu (128.205.32.9) | pub/ham-radio/faq_ham_[1-6] |
| rtfm.mit.edu (18.172.1.27) | pub/usenet/news.answers/ham-radio-faq/part* |

Remember, when connecting to the remote system, use the login name of "anonymous" and, as a courtesy to the site administrators, your e-mail address for the password.

Option #3: Electronic Mail Server

If you can't use Options 1 or 2, your only remaining option is electronic mail. You can retrieve a copy of the FAQ by sending a message to
mail-server@rtfm.mit.edu

The body of your mail will contain a command for the mail server software. To get all of the FAQ (consisting of 70K of e-mail in 3 parts), place the following in the subject of your message:
send usenet/news.answers/ham-radio-faq/★

To obtain just one part, substitute the part number for the "1" in the following example:
send usenet/news.answers/ham-radio-faq/part1

Leave out the subject of your message because the mail server will ignore it.

--- begin sample mail message ---
To: mail-server@rtfm.mit.edu
From: me@here.org
Date: Mon Aug 14 22:27:33 PDT 1995

send usenet/news.answers/ham-radio-faq/★
--- end sample mail message ---

Table of Contents

Dates indicate last modification.

Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio

- ★ Table of Contents (1/93)
- ★ Introduction to the FAQ (11/92)
 - ★ How to Contribute to the FAQ Articles (1/93)
 - ★ Acknowledgements (7/92)

- * Notes on "Netiquette" (1/93)
- ** What is Amateur Radio? (11/92)
- ** Who can become a ham in the United States? (11/92)
- ** Where can I locate information and books on Amateur Radio? (4/92)
- ** How much does it cost? (4/92)
- ** Where can I take the tests? (pre-4/92)
- ** What are the tests like? (4/92)
- ** What can I do with a ham radio license? (5/92)
- ** What can't I do with an Amateur Radio license? (pre-4/92)
- ** I'm interested, who will help me? (11/92)
- ** Should I build my own equipment or antenna? (11/92)

Part 2 - Amateur Radio Organizations, Services, and Information Sources

- ** Where can I find Ham Radio information with a computer? (11/92)
 - * The rec.radio.* newsgroups (new 1/93)
 - * The ARRL e-mail server (1/93)
 - * The Internet File Transfer Protocol (FTP) (1/93)
 - * Access to FTP archives via electronic mail (1/93)
 - * The Info-Hams mail list: rec.radio.amateur.misc by mail (1/93)
 - * Telephone BBS's with Ham-related information (11/92)
 - * Callsign servers and geographical name servers (11/92)
 - * FTP access to FCC Part 97 and FCC Amateur Radio question pools (11/92)
 - * Lists of radio modifications and extensions (11/92)
- ** Can I send ARRL or W5YI electronic mail? (11/92)
- ** "Why doesn't the ARRL do...?" (11/92)
- ** What magazines are available for Ham Radio? (pre-4/92)
- ** How do I use the incoming and outgoing QSL bureau? (11/92)
- ** Are there any news groups for CAP? (11/92)
- ** What's the name of the QRP club that issues QRP numbers? (pre-4/92)
- ** How do I become a 10-10 member? (pre-4/92)
- ** How do I join MARS? (1/93)
- ** How do I join RACES? (pre-4/92)
- ** What organizations are available to help handicapped hams? (pre-4/92)
- ** I am looking for a specific ham, can anyone help me find him? (pre-4/92)
- ** Can I post my neat new ham related program on rec.radio.amateur.misc? (pre-4/92)
- ** Where can I get ham radio software for my computer? (4/92)
- ** Are there Dialup News services or BBSs for Amateur Radio? (4/92)
- ** Where can I find VE sessions in my local area? (6/92)
- ** Why isn't XXX available electronically? (4/92)

Part 3 - Amateur Radio Advanced and Technical Questions

- ** What are the different US amateur classes and what can each of them do? (pre-4/92)
- ** What is the best way to learn Morse Code? (10/92)
- ** What is the standard for measuring Morse code speed? (pre-4/92)
- ** I'm confused. What do all those abbreviations mean??? (5/92)
- ** What do all those "tones" mean? (pre-4/92)

- ** Where can I learn more about Amateur Radio if I live outside the US? (4/92)
- ** How can I get a "reciprocal license" if I am a licensed ham from another country or if I am a FCC licensed ham who wants to operate in another country (on vacation)? (11/92)
- ** My apartment or housing complex does not allow outdoor antennas, now what do I do? (pre-4/92)
- ** I got TVI...HELP!!! (pre-4/92)
- ** Did you know that you can get college credit for being a ham? (pre-4/92)
- ** On what frequencies do JPL and GSFC retransmit the shuttle audio? (10/92)
- ** Can I take my HT on an airplane and operate it if I get the permission of the captain? (4/92)
- ** How do I modify my current Amateur license? (4/92)
- ** I'm confused about XXX, should I ask the FCC? (4/92)
- ** Is there any information on antique radios? (pre-4/92)
- ** Where can I buy vacuum tubes? (pre-4/92)
- ** What do I need to get started in packet radio? (5/92)
- ** What do I need to get started in satellite communications? (pre-4/92)
- ** What is available to get started in ATV, SSTV and WEFAX? (5/92)
- ** What are these contests I sometimes hear, and how do I participate? (7/92)

--Submitting changes for the FAQ-----

If you have comments or updates for the FAQ, send e-mail to
hamradio-faq@amdahl.com

This will send mail to all the people on the FAQ editorial review group.

Date: Fri, 26 Feb 1993 20:16:51 GMT

From: swrinde!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!agate!stanford.edu!Csli!

kawai@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: mail-order -- good experiences

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Wally Blackburn wonders:

```
| I will second the praise for Easytech - but I am wondering if they are
| still in business! I called a week or so ago and was told the 800
| number was disconnected and given the POTS number to call. I called it
| and got no answer.
```

I ordered from them earlier this week, and yesterday found a UPS note on my door stating that UPS had tried to deliver a package from Easytech but couldn't because nobody was home. So I guess they are in business!

The phone number I called was (510)770-2345.

----- Speech Research Program, SRI, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3493 USA
--- Goh Kawai --- work:(415)859-2231 fax:(415)859-5984 home:(415)323-7214
----- internet: kawai@speech.sri.com radio: n6uok and 711fqe

Date: 26 Feb 93 14:39:16 CST
From: swrinde!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!The-
Star.honeywell.com!umn.edu!noc.msc.net!uc.msc.edu!raistlin!timbuk.cray.com!
walter.cray.com!craywr!wws@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Misdirected QSLs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Feb26.170439.7018@tjic02.uucp>, eri316@tjic02.uucp (Ed
Ingraham) writes:
> What do you do if you receive a QSL card for a contact that you never
> made? Just trash the card? Send a note back to the other ham?

I received one a few weeks ago from an Italian. (It had a 'green stamp' in
it, SASE, etc.) Turns out he was trying to send it to a QSL manager
whose call was sort of similar to mine. So I forwarded it for him.

Walt

Walt Spector
(wws@renaissance.cray.com)
Sunnyvale, California
-.- -.- -..... -.- -.-

Date: 26 Feb 1993 20:01:19 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!bogus.sura.net!darwin.sura.net!mojo.eng.umd.edu!
chuck@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: radar scrambler ?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <2352.366.uupcb@pics.com> james.mollica@pics.com (James Mollica)
writes:

>Hello all. I am looking for info on those "black boxes" you can build
>to scatter police radar or send out garbage in the receiver range so a
>speed lock will not happen. I believe I saw some articles in Popular

That's nice, are you aware that doing this is federally illegal, and
can result in fines that are orders of magnitude greater than the largest
speeding ticket you could ever get?

I didn't think so!

73,

Chuck Harris - WA3UQV
chuck@eng.umd.edu

Date: 26 Feb 1993 20:22:51 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!bogus.sura.net!darwin.sura.net!mojo.eng.umd.edu!
chuck@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Soldering PL259's
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Feb23.220612.16792@nnnnpd2.cxo.dec.com> yanagi@32799.enet.dec.com
(32799::yanagi) writes:

>
> I've heard that PL259's are not waterproof and 9913 cable (with it's
> air dielectric) will be destroyed if water gets into it. N-type
> connectors are supposed to be waterproof.
>
> What I've done is put N connectors on the cable and used a N female to
> PL259 coupler, and covered the whole mess (at the antenna) with coax
> seal.

Watch out here! "N" connectors are only water-resistant for water that is
trying to get into the connector from the outside. Any water that gets in
the system, from let's say, your non water-resistant "N-to-PL" adaptor will
pass thru the insides of your "N" connector right into your beloved 9913
cable!

Also, you must remember to use the rubber washer inside you "N" connector
if you want it to be water-resistant. Not all "N" connectors come with
this washer.

73,

Chuck Harris - WA3UQV

Date: 26 Feb 93 00:14:14 EST
From: sdd.hp.com!ncr-sd!ncrcae!ncrhub2!ncrgw2!psinnntp!arrl.org@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Soldering PL259's
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, yanagi@32799.enet.dec.com (32799::yanagi) writes:

Anyone have any practical ideas for preventing water from condensing inside 9913? I know the broadcast stations pressurize their cables with dry gas, but don't know of amateurs going through this trouble. Keeping it a high enough temperature might work (above the dew point), but this doesn't seem to be any easier, unless you live in Hawaii :-). Another solution would be keeping it in an extremely cold place where it never gets warm enough for water to condense (Greenland??). Or is this cable just not practical outdoors where the weather constantly changes?

I don't believe N connectors have gas tight seals.

Zack Lau KH6CP/1

Internet: zlau@arrl.org "Working" on 24 GHz SSB/CW gear
Operating Interests: 10 GHz CW/SSB/FM
US Mail: c/o ARRL Lab 80/40/20 CW
225 Main Street Station capability: QRP, 1.8 MHz to 10 GHz
Newington CT 06111 modes: CW/SSB/FM/packet
amtcr/audot
Phone (if you really have to): 203-666-1541

>
> I've heard that PL259's are not waterproof and 9913 cable (with it's
> air dielectric) will be destroyed if water gets into it. N-type
> connectors are supposed to be waterproof.
>
> What I've done is put N connectors on the cable and used a N female to
> PL259 coupler, and covered the whole mess (at the antenna) with coax
> seal.

Date: 26 Feb 93 14:50:12 CST
From: swrinde!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!The-
Star.honeywell.com!umn.edu!noc.msc.net!uc.msc.edu!raistlin!timbuk.cray.com!
walter.cray.com!craywr!wws@network.UCSD.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Feb25.114922.16051@ke4zv.uucp>, <1miu8kINN6lc@west.West.Sun.COM>,
<C32GHn.B9M@amdcl2>ais
Subject : Re: too darn big!

In article <C32GHn.B9M@amdcl2>, brian@amdcl2.amd.com (Brian McMinn, N5PSS) writes:
|> (Fred Lloyd [Phoenix SE]) writes:
|> > There are several ways to organize and regulate this newsgroup:

|> >
|> > a) Make it moderated.
|>
|> Sounds like an idea who's time has come. Now if we can just find
|> someone willing to moderate it! :-)

How about Wayne Green?

...

:-) for the humor impaired!

Walt

Walt Spector

(www@renaissance.cray.com)

Sunnyvale, California

..- ..- ..-... ..- ..-

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #262
